

UNCLASSIFIED

2/3/78

(S) - 6C

BB046

FROM: AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
 CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]  
 11652: N/A  
 TAGS: SHIM, SREF, AR  
 SUBJECT: FIRST LIST OF PEN DETAINEES RELEASED  
 ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4440  
 REF: [REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 0903  
 BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

## DECONTROL

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AMB  
 DCM  
 POL-3  
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 ECON  
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 RF  
 CHRON

1. PRESS SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR LAST NIGHT (FEBRUARY 3) RELEASED LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 700 PERSONS DETAINED IN FEDERAL DISTRICT PRISON U-2 (DEVOTO) UNDER EXECUTIVE STATE OF SIEGE POWER (PEN). ALSO PUBLISHED LIST OF ONE PERSON PLACED UNDER PEN, SEVEN RELEASED FROM PEN, AND EIGHT GRANTED PERMISSION TO LEAVE COUNTRY. PRESS DID NOT AGREE ON EXACT NUMBER; LA NACION SAID 702, NOTICIAS ARGENTINA SAID 705, AND LA OPINION USED THE FIGURE OF 730. AS DEVOTO IS WOMENS PRISON, ABOUT 675 NAMES WERE WOMEN, REMAINDER WERE MEN. FORM IN WHICH NAMES ARE LISTED MAKES EXACT COUNT DIFFICULT.

2. AMONG THOSE RELEASED FROM PEN WAS ABELARDO ARCE, FORMER CGT LEADER. MARTA ALICIA PANERO, U.S. DUAL

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000004)  
 U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
 Margaret P. Griefeld, Director  
 (X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
 Exemptions:  
 Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full  
 ( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
 Date Declassify on Reason

DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXP. CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPR.  
 2/1/78 278 AME:RCS/EDD

LOT 81F93

(7/7) 52/52

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NATIONAL WAS AUTHORIZED TO DEPART COUNTRY. (WHEN 12.12.77) AUTHORIZED TO DEPART THE COUNTRY IN A LIST PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER. APPARENTLY BOTH ARE STILL CONFINED TO DEVOTO, SINCE BOTH NAMES APPEARED ON THE LIST OF 675 WOMEN DETAINED THERE AS OF JANUARY 25.) ALSO ON THE LIST OF THOSE DETAINED IN DEVOTO WAS LUCIANA VOGLER.

3. MINISTRY STATEMENT HEAVILY STRESSED THAT PUBLICATION OF LIST OF DETAINEES WAS BEGINNING OF PROCESS SPECIFICALLY DISPOSED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA, AND FULFILLS PROMISE MADE AT TIME OF RELEASE OF 389 PERSONS RELEASED FROM PEN IN DECEMBER. BEGIN [REDACTED]

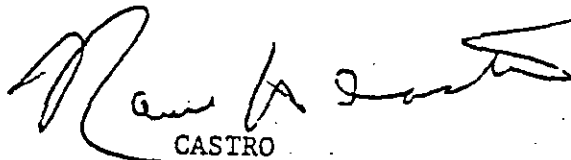
4. COMMENT: STORY SEEMS TO HAVE BROKEN LATE, AS ONLY LA OPINION CARRIES MORE THAN LISTS AND TEXTS OF ANNOUNCEMENTS. OPINION STORY IS INTERESTING, HOWEVER, IN STRESS IT GIVES TO PRESIDENT VIDELA'S PERSONAL INITIATIVE IN PUBLICATION OF LISTS OF PRISONERS AND IN ACTIVATING RIGHT OF OPTION PROCESS. STATES THEY ARE EVENTS WHICH FLOW DIRECTLY FROM HIS STRATEGY ADOPTED AFTER HIS VISIT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN SEPTEMBER 1977. CONFIRMS THAT ADVISORY BOARD TO START PROCESSING FIRST KKK FIFTY CASES UNDER REVISED RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM HAS BEEN APPOINTED, AND WILL START ISSUING RECOMMENDATIONS. CITES OSTENSIBLY FAVORABLE STATEMENTS ABOUT TREND OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN ARGENTINA MADE RECENTLY BY VISITING RETIRED FRENCH KKK ADMIRAL, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR, AND U.S. AMBASSADOR

DA-M  
4-12-76

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CASTRO. WHILE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FIRST TWO PARTS OF THE  
ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR CASTRO WAS FUNDAMENTALLY DISTORTED.  
5. WE WERE TOLD BY A NUMBER OF SOURCES THAT THESE MEASURES  
WERE GOING TO BE ANNOUNCED, BUT REPEATED DELAYS NURTURED  
SKEPTICISM. STYLE OF PRESENTATION COULD HAVE BEEN VIDELA  
EFFORT TO ASSURE THAT MASSERA DOES NOT STEAL HIS THUNDER AS  
CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY A  
DETERMINING FACTOR. THIS WAS PROBABLY THE EASIEST LIST TO  
PUBLISH, IN THAT FEW DANGEROUS CRIMINALS OR SUSPECTS ARE IN  
DEVOTO, AND FROM OUR RAPID READING OF IT, NO PERSONS WHO WERE  
PREVIOUSLY AMONG THE DISAPPEARED HAVE MIRACULOUSLY REAPPEARED.  
IT IS, HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT MOVE IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION.

  
CASTRO

BA-11  
4-11-77

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